MIDDLE SCHOOL GOOD TIMES

Vol. 21 #3 Valentine's Day 1995 Paw Paw, MI 49079 $.50

VALENTINE'S DAY POEMS

Roses are red
Violets are blue
You smell like
My old gym shoe.
by t. staggs

Roses are red
Violets are blue
You'd look better
With less air in your head.
by s. lounsbury

Roses are red
Violets are blue
If you turn off the lights
I'll smack you.
by m. abbott

FOR THE MORE ROMANTICALLY MINDED, see the poems further on in this paper.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD MARCH 10

The Science Olympiad team is made up of 12 eighth graders and three seventh graders.

The eighth grade members are David Williams, Andy Goodman, Jonathan Hughes, Sarah Mitchell, Erin Jordan, Heidi Wilhelmi, Todd Freeman, Jeff Hodges, Amy Baltmanis, Jessica Price and Jericho Groenland.

The seventh graders are Katie Abshagen, Jack Conway and Andrew Alexander.

The team is coached by Mr. Erickson, Mr. Lutz and Mr. Snyder.
by a. alexander

Roses are red, cookies are sweet,
4th hour the kitchen staff's neat.DH

EIGHTH GRADE VOLLEYERS

The eighth grade A volleyball team is made up of Jessica Baugher, Jessica Beck, Lindsey Boysen, Casey Charters, Dawn Dean, Jericho Groenland, Jenny Jennings, Erin Jordan, Kristen Nugteren, Rene Rennhack, Martha Rohrbacher, Julie Vesey, and Lindsay Smith.

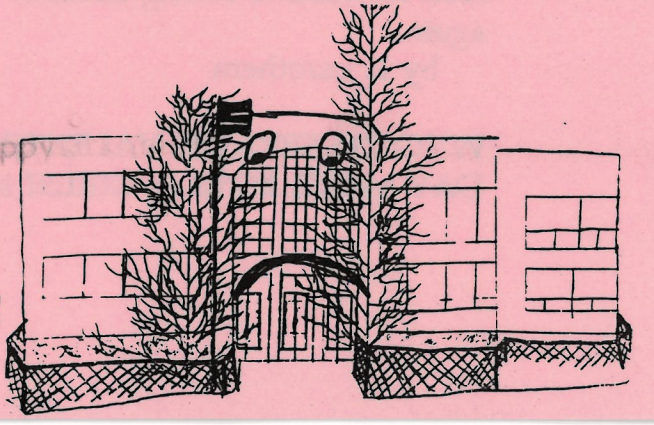
The B team of 8th graders is made up of Megan Abbott, Sherie Bastian, Brenda Bowen, Kerrie Hamilton, Ginnie Moore, Suzzanne Overacker, Mandy Pyad, Angela Reidt, Ahlea Streich, Mandy Thomasma, Stephanie VanLoon, Heidi Wilhelmi, and Amanda Yonkman.
by a. streich

PPMS WRESTLERS DOING WELL

Off to a good start with their first matches successful, the wrestling team's season runs until March 8.

The team includes the following people: Mark Houghton, Corey Vyverman, Brent Latta, KEn Shipley, Nick Kuntz, Shawn Sparks, Brian Winters, Alison Hathaway, Andy Kissinger, Adam Shipley, Billy Lounsbury, T.J. Sell, and Tom Coles.

Their coach is Brett Osbun.



See page 2 for L. Smith's story

PAW PAW MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEAKS FOR ITSELF (see picture)
by Lewis Fritts

Here, inside me, people walk and talk and open my doors. I don't like it at all. These nasty, greasy janitors mop my floors and scrub my walls with nasty, different colored chemicals.

Those disgusting, rude, rotten nasty kids spit on my floors and hit and kick my lockers. They even pull my poor shades up and down when it's sunny out. Those awful rude terrible teachers are even worse than the kids. They hang things in my windows and write on my boards- it feels so eerie. It really hurts when they hang things from my ceilings - especially those heavy lights.

I'm even trapped behind fences- those rude people. I'm even creaking and they won't fix me. I'm just plain old!!

AUTUMN

The autumn is the most beautiful time of the year. Beautiful colors burst out everywhere: cherry apple red, fluorescent yellow, jungle green, and flashy orange. Big bundles of color extend for miles in every direction. The bursting colors fly around from the big winds. Ruffles of cloud smoke float overhead and leave a musty smell. I look forward to seeing autumn once again.

by k. carothers

WHO CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S DAY MORE, BOYS or GIRLS? and

WHY DO GUY GET GIRLS STUFFED ANIMALS?

Rayn Boulter says, "Girls celebrate it more and the boys steal the sfuffed animals from their sisters."
Derk Terpstra's belief is " Girls do. And stuffed animals are cheap."
Emily Pasman says, " Girls do, of course and they get those animals from their sister to give to other girls."
Melanie Lanter thinks , "Girls do. Boys think we will like them (the stuffed animals)"
Craig Tapper says, " Girls do... and They like them."
Karie Wilson thinks, " Girls. .. and because the stuffed animals are cute." Susan Maystead agrees.
Lindsey Forward says "Girls and guys think girls like them." George Kilts notes, " Girls do. Stuffed animals are easy to find." Jennifer Sargent agreed with the rest when she said, " They think it's cute."
Finally, Danny Anderer thought , "Boys do.. celebrate it more. They buy stuffed animals because they're soft." Sure sounds like boys do... with all the stuffed animals they're buying!

WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

Will you be my valentine.
Today and every day
As a pair we'll be just fine,
If yes is what you say.

Will you be my sweetheart
And share your love with me,
Say we'll never have to part
And together we will be happy.
Not only on this special day

but all throughout the year.
Will you listen when I say
To me you are so dear?
by k, hamilton

INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES : VIEWS of the MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have been recently interviewing our instructional assistants to see what they are like and what they think of our schools. The most recent person we interviewed was Mr. Bundy. Here are some of our questions and his answers.

We asked if he wanted to teach and his response was yes. We also asked who inspired him to teach. His answer kind of shocked us... "his brother."

We asked if he wanted to teach middle school. He replied that he didn't really care at this point but not that he's been with us for a while. He would choose middle school to teach but he would do his best to change the attitude of some students.

While interviewing Mr. Bundy, we also learned that his wife and his brother are teachers.

He has subbed for almost all of the teachers in our school. He majored in history, p.e. and health. Although he has no kids, he does have two dogs.

by k. hamilton and t. terpstra

GOOD TIMES STAFF LIST:

Megan Abbott, Kerrie Hamilton, Heather Houston, Jami Alleman, Jericho GRoenland, Todd Freeman Ahlea Streich, Kate O' Keefe, Rosemary Beyer, Winonah LaGrande, Andy Goodman, Justin Avery, Alison Hathaway, Angela Reidt, Jake Greensley, Angela Creameans, Angelina Holt, Dan Shreve, R.J. Manning, Samantha Allen, Kim Holcomb, Jon Ayres, Lindsey Forward, Joy Shinabarger, Michelle Rains, Denyse Varnesdeel, Bethany Howell, Andrew Alexander, Jack Conway, Casey Kerns, Joshm Myers, Kristin Crowder, Natalie Alden, Alison Surdy, Brandon Hewitt, Missy Johnson, Brent Latta, Steve Boucher, Sarah Lounsbury, and Tess Terpstra.

THE OCEAN PREDATOR

by s. boucher

The predator is as fast as lightening
And with a quick snap your arm is gone.
It is the master of the vast ocean realm
It feasts on the hides of the harmless ocean seals
They slaughter the seals that swim in the warm waters
And with a qucik snap your leg is gone.
They are the most dangerous things in the ocean
With their large mouths and sharp teeth
They are the sentinels of the dark waters
And with a quick snap your other leg is gone.
The beast is a massive and keen creature
Creatures of the deep dark murky realm they rule

And with a quick snap you are gone!
Snap!

LOVE
Love can be fake and live in hurt
Love can be hatred and live in sorrow
Love can be sick and live in tragedy
Love can be abusive and live in fear
Love can be misjudged and live in sorriness
Love can be true and last.
Love can be happiness and live ever after.
Love can be...
by katrina carothers

Interview with the Ground Hog

We asked: " Why do you like to see your shadow? "

Hog: "It looks like Renee H."

We: "Who is Renee H.?"

Hog: "My best buddy." (tell her I said 'hi.')"

We: "What is the best thing about PPMS?"

Hog: "The secretaries and Mr. Aubry for giving me Jolly Ranchers."

We:" What is your favorite flavor?"

H.: " Green apple or cherry.".

W: " Who is your favorite teacher?"

H. "Mrs. Dobbs cause I like shapes (geometry ya know) and Mrs. S. cause I like the paper and Muzzy."

W:" What's your favorite hot lunch?"

H.:" Good grief you think I eat that stuff?"

W.:"Who is the coolest substitute teacher?"

H." Mr. Baas cause he's the man. and Mr. Norgrove cause my cousin works munfacturing hair gel and my stock went through the roof."

W." What is the best MS sport?"

H. "Wrestling except that here they are not allowed to use hot oil or mud."

W." What was the coolest Ground Hog day?"

H. "I don't like any of them cause I'm warm cozy in my hole til jerks yank me out to see my shadow."

W." Is OJ guilty?"

H. " Yes because he is."

W. "Which is better, U of M or MSU?"

H. " MSU because Respert and Snow are Top Notch."

Many thanks to the Ground Hog for giving us this interview. It was very informative.

CUPID'S TOP TEN WAYS TO GET SHOT by j. conway

10. Wear Target brand underwear
9. Go hunting without reflectors.
8. Walk through an alley.
7. Become J. H.'s enemy
6. Buy drugs on the street
5. Wear dark brown and make duck calls.
4. Become a lawyer, work for a client who's a serial killer and lose.
3. Commit suicide
2. Use real guns for cops & robbers
1. Look cross-eyed at America's Most Wanted.

AIDS by j. shinabarger
When you have Aids, you can't deny
the fact that you are starting to die,
Staying home from work that day
all you wanted to do was pray.
"God, I'm sorry for my sin,"
then you think of all your kin.
How will you tell your mom and dad
for this bitter news will make them sad.
So you tell your folks, you couldn't lie
And for once you see daddy cry.
Which never has happened be cause he's proud,
The rules in his book say it's not allowed.
What you need right now is mommy's care,
for the grief alone is much to bear,
The nurse comes out and says, "I'm sorry."
But they know you're in God's hands,
And that they shouldn't worry.

DEAR FILBERT,
There is this very pretty girl at school. I have a big crush on her. She seems to be everywhere I go. Every time I open my eyes she's there. What do you think I should do?
Confused
DEAR CONF,
For starters you could stop following her.
DEAR FILBERT,
I have a problem with the stairs. I can never seem to go up the right ones. What shold I do?
HAVING UPS and DOWNS
DEAR H and D,
Life is full of ups and downs, but in your case I'd suggest asking for an elevator.
DEAR FILBERT,
I find I am terribly addicted to the school's Snapple. Is there a way to overcome this?
Snappled
DEAR SNAP,
I'd suggest changing to Sporange or maybe even spavocado juice...
OJ POLL... DID HE or DIDN'T HE?
The results are in and according to our school, OJ is not guilty with 50 % saying "Not guilty", 45% saying "Guilty", and 5% undecided. This was from a total of 203 responses. If OJ writes another book and tries to sell it here, he'll only collect nickels and dimes because 78% of those asked said they don't care.
Some of our favorite comments were," I called Ronald on the Ouija and he said he paid OJ $3000 to kill but he killed him (Ronald) too." One said, "I doubt he was playing golf, I mean that is a really lame alibi." Another said, " I like to know what's going on but I miss my soaps."
Some of you think he hired a hitman and therefore he's innocent. Hmm. We think if that were true he'd still be guilty.
a.g.

POLICIES on WEAPONS

Policy 5049 Posssession of Weapons... in compliance with Public Act 211 students possessing a weapon are to be immediately expelled . This is mandatory and it means that if you are found with a weapon and you knowingly had it, you will be kicked out of school.

So, a natural question to ask is "What is considered a weapon?" Some answers are obvious, but others you may not think of. (e.g. slingshot) Certain devices (Mace) that are sold nationally as a protective device are banned under this law. If you have any questions you should see Mr. Aubry or Mrs. Schlarman.

The weapon-free zone also includes buses, playing fields used for school purposes and the area up to 1000 feet around the school.

If a student is expelled, he/she may be reinstated after 150 days.

by a. goodman

WHAT AM I?

I am a pet, but I'm also wild,
Without trying, I can hurt a child,
My body color is basically green,
Some people think I'm really mean.
I have four legs and a very long tail,
Though we come in both sexes, I'm a female.
Like a cat, I can climb a tree
Have you guessed yet what I could be?
When full grown I'll reach six feet
Though I love my veggies, I have to eat meat.
I live in a tank, take bathes in a tub.
And like the top of my head to be rubbed.
My long claws too easy can scratch
I lay eggs in the sand that later will hatch.
I can hold my breath for up to two hours,
And sometimes eat the petals of flowers.
Now that this is near an end,
It's time to ask you once again
Have you guessed what I could be?
If not, then one day would like to see?

by k. hamilton

WHY VALENTINE'S DAY?

In a recent poll, we asked where Valentine's Day came from. Brandon Hewitt thinks , "From the goddess of love." Tony Borello said, " The great person of love named Val in the mid-1500's."

Tracy Miller said, " From the love goddess." Mike Martin thought," An English saint, St, Valentine, and it's celebrated on the day of his death."

"It originated in Italy where a man was hung," was Casey Kern's opinion. David Williams suggested that,"It came from MExico." Heidi Wilhelmi thought," A conspiracy of lovesick guys wanted an excuse to give a girl something."

Sarah Houghton said," A guy who got too lonely every day," invented it. "From the angels that

floated down from the sky" was Mandi Thomasma's opinion.

Angela Reidt said, "Cupid and love". "It came from the Greek gods," said Kristen Nugteren. Megan Frazier thought," Rome, Italy, Greek gods." Jenny Hulbert agreed. Kate O'Keefe thought," It may be from Hallmark." Jeff Shomay thought "It could be from England."

So where did this holiday come from? Saint Valentine was the name given to a bishop and a priest who feasted every February 14. The association with love may be from the Roman Festival of Lupercalie in honor of Faunus, the god of fertility. On this day young men would go around the hills whipping people with goat skins. Women who struck were insured fertility and easy delivery of children, which can bring love into a person's life.

Next time you hand someone a valentine, you may be struck by the reasons why.

by a. goodman

COOKING FUN STUFF for VALENTINE DAY by n.alden

Wild Berry slushies

8 oz. frozen raspberries
2 c. ice cubes
2 tbsp. sugar
1/4 c. water

Mix berries, ice and sugar in blender. 3 min. Add water and mix for 2 more min. Pour into glasses and eat.

DEAR SAM,

Sorry about you not gettin letters. I hope you and your kids and wife will get enough to eat. Maybe you need a different job.

Concerned

Dear CONCERNED,

Thank you to all who wrote me. I may not even get all of my answers in this paper. My kids and wife and puppy thank you.

DEAR SAM,

Someone very close to me is going out with someone that is bad for his reputation. This may very well be the worst thing he's ever done. I've tried to talk to him but he won't listen. What should I do?

Wondering

DEAR WONDERING,

I would keep talking to him. Eventually he will take the time to hear you whether he takes your advice or not, it's worth a shot. Either way he will do what he wants to. Altogether all I can say is keep tryin' and good luck.

DEAR SAM,

What is proper fan etiquette during free throws? Dribble dribble shoot?

BOUNCIN'

DEAR BOUNC,

I think proper fan etiquette should be kinda like when somebody serves a volleyball...quiet. Even though I'm afraid that will never happen. Everybody has their own opinion.

DEAR SAM,

The math teacher hates me. My grade will never get higher. I'm grounded for life. Please help.

MINUS

see page 8 for continuation

DEAR MIN,

Have you talked to your math teacher to see what is making your grade so low? If not then you should. After that, if your grade is still that low, maybe you should see about getting a tutor. There is a tutor program at our school.

DEAR SAM,

How do they cram all that graham?

IM LOST.

DEAR LOST,

If you haven't seen the cinnamon, then how do you know how much if any cinnamon is on the graham you're cramming? Well, you could call the hotline number at the bottom of the box. Ask them how they cram all that graham into such a small cracker. Then ask them if they would send you a box. If that doesn't work, well you'll just have to figure it out by yourself. Good luck.

P.S. Nice question!

DEAR SAM,

Why did you do that?

JACCOB S. LADDER

DEAR JAC,

I'm sorry, I couldn't help myself. I had to do it. Now, what did I do?

Deer Sim,

Due you thinck it wood b rong knot 2 no my latters? I n the 8 grade.

Cinfused Cid

Dear Cid,

I dussn't no what is yer problemm. U shoud not've got out of 1 grad from what eye sea.

DEAR SAM,

I am desperately looking for a partner but I don't know where to find one. Could you help me?

DESPERATE

DEAR DESP,

This is not a dating service. IF you are that desperate check around school for people you have an interest in or people who are kind of like you. Try not to write if you are looking for a mate. We will discuss match-making column with my staff.

DEAR SAM,

My pet Bob died of eating my mom's cooking. What should I do?

DEAR SAM,

My pet goldfish died of constipation. And it is hard for me to handle.

DEAR HEART and AWESOME,

You two need to get together and talk...at a pet store. Things happen , guys, especially with pets...ya gotta feed and water em....

ALONE by t.ogden

My eyes are swollen, my heart is bruised
Lost in a world of abuse
Tears are running down my face
It's all one big place.
My soul is lost in a forbidden zone.
No matter how fast I run nor hard I try.
The pain I cannot hide.
My smile is hidden, my thoughts cold,
Warmth cannot change.
My heart weeps, I'm so alone.
Alone with no one to listen, no one to care.
My love I want to share.
Alone, I'm all alone.

PICTURES

They say a picture says
A thousand words. But
That's not true. A picture
Is a moment, not the entire time.
You smile for a picture, but
sometimes that smile is fake.
You smile for the sake
Of the picture, but sometimes
Your heart just aches.
You may be grumpy. mad or sad.
But you plaster on that
Smile no matter how you feel.
They say a picture says
A thousand words.
But a picture doesn't say
How you feel.
by s. gray

SIXTH GRADERS in BATTLE

The battle of the literature classes will take place this Friday. Sixth graders will compete by homerooms to se which is the best team in a Sixth Grade only activity planned by the pods.

ACTIVITY NIGHT MARCH 24

Student council plans an all-school activity night in March. Games, dancing, make-up sessions (the kind you wear ...not homework replacement), karaoke, all kinds of events are being planned. Don't miss it!

BAND FESTIVAL SOON

The parents and friends of the middle school will get a preview of what will be performed at Festival this year during a concert March 2 at 7:30.

Sixth graders held their first concert with Miss Gronda conducting on January 12.

STUPID STUPID SNOW

by d. williams

Snow snow go away
Don't come back another day,
I hate snow, I really do
I'd rather eat vegetable stew.
The snow ruins my days
When I had so many plans to play
Snow makes our house cold inside
So I go under theblankets, keep warm and hide.
I don't like to play games in the house
I'd rahter get chased by a nine foot mouse.
The snow is slick and very cold,
It makes my bones feel brittle and cold.
I hate to go out where the snow does form,
I have to bundle up so I'm extremely warm,
People who like snow sometimes ski,
Personally I'd rather be on the Caribbean Sea.
Stupid stupid stupid snow,
Snot from my nose seems to flow
My recommendation from my own mouth,
Stay away from the snow and live down South.

IN THE STILL OF THE DAY by k.crothers, s. waller, and t. ogden

In the Still of the Day we sat there, sat there all day.
So I hate, hate it so. Promise we'll never be here again in... p. 10

in the Still of the Day.

Chorus: In the Still of the Day, So we sat here sat here all day and We did all of our homework. It was Boring, I'll never be put here again. In the Still of the Day.
(inspired by a day in ISS.)

NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL...WHY WE NEED ONE..

We definitely need a new school building. Our present building is old and run-down. It's not up to government building and fire codes. It has no elevator for wheelchairs.

However we have academic needs that our facility also doesn';t lend itself to. Students need to explore their skills and hobbies. Therefore, we need room for more exploratories or specials classes. We also need the option of a flexible schedule. If one class needs more time, it should be able to have more time. We also need advisors, a homeroom that you meet in every day. We need teams and teaming. If students were in pods, a group of students would have the same teachers for their schedule. That way teachers could meet to talk about certain groups and student needs. It would be more convenient for students and for teachers.

For all these reasons and more, we need a new school.
by k. o'keefe

ANOTHER VIEW on a New school

PPMS is a wreck. The bricks are falling off, the paint is chipping and the auditorium is in unspeakable condition. The current building violates numerous safety and fire codes as well as handicap regulations. Renovation would be useless; the building is too small for a middle school. No compter lab, an inadeguate science lab, and many classrooms are as small as closets. Some classes are even held in the hall. Addition is impossible because the lot doesn't have much room left and it is completely surrounded on all sides by roads.

It has been suggested we should build a new high school nad move the middle school to the high school. High school classes are mostly lecture and so they don't need the larger spaces the middle school classrooms do. The building is also designed for taller people. The lockers are taller.

A good solution is to build a new bigger middle school. If it's built near the current high school, it can save money by not haviung to shuttle to and from the high school. Also, certain facilities, like playing fields, and band rooms and gyms can be shared. Maybe two different groups of maintenance wouldn't be needed. And we can save big money in maintenance costs by building a new school so that in the long run we are saving money and tax dollars spent on repairs could go for other things.
by a. goodman

DEAR SAM... thanks you all for your letters and says keep em coming. We will print the rest next issue March 31.

Happy Valentine's to the super stupendous 6th graders. Mrs. Bolton.